

Surface Transportation Rural Program (STP-Rural, STP-R)

Statute: Federal Aid: state and local funds: [§84.03](#) **Admin. Rule:** N/A

Program objective:

The objective of the STP-Rural Program is to improve federal aid eligible highways outside of urban areas (primarily county trunk highways).

Program eligibility:

Projects must meet federal and state requirements. Under TEA-21, rural minor collectors became eligible for federal funding at state discretion. Wisconsin decided to make these routes eligible, but funding is to \$6 million per cycle under federal rules. Minor collectors became eligible for funding in the 2001-2003 STP-Rural Program cycle.

Program definition:

Federal funding is provided for a wide range of transportation-related activities, including projects on higher function local roads not on the State Trunk Highway system, and local safety improvements. The program is funded through the federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

Program description:

Prior to ISTEA, the amount of federal highway aid directed to state and local governments was determined through specific appropriations and categorical programs. These programs distributed aid according to clearly defined criteria based on such factors as population and lane mileage of certain functional roads within the government's jurisdiction.

Authorized in 1998, TEA-21 continues the concept of a single, flexible Surface Transportation Program and a new set of planning and decision-making relationships among various levels of government.

Program history:

Federal-aid highway programs that directed funding to local governments before enactment of ISTEA had well-established formulas that allocated funding based on population and mileage criteria. ISTEA eliminated these programs beginning in FY 92 and replaced them with programs that can be used to fund a broader mix of projects.

Application cycle:

WisDOT District Offices solicit STP-Rural projects in spring of the odd numbered years, with the approval in the summer of the odd numbered years. Beginning in 1997, a three-year program was developed for 1999-2000-2001. The 2003-2005 program is

currently in effect and WisDOT District Offices are soliciting projects for the 2005-2007 program cycle.

Annual Federal Amount Appropriated: \$25,927,400

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